

George Gabert is backbone of club's 'Good Morning Net'

By JOHN ENIGL

There's a club in Door County that meets more often than there are days in the year, and 82 year old George Gabert is more responsible than anyone else for that record.

The club is the Door County Amateur Radio Club. Besides talking informally over their two-way radios, the four dozen club members hold regular meetings once a month. They meet for breakfast each Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at the Fisherman's Table restaurant in Sturgeon Bay. In addition, they hold a club picnic in the summer, a dinner meeting in the winter, a Father's day dinner and a fish boil. Sometimes the club makes a trip to Washington Island, where several of the members live.

But the activity that accounts for the greatset number of meetings for the club members is the Good Morning Net. At 8 o'clock each morning except Sunday, club member Gabert turns on his two meter amateur radio transceiver and calls the club members together.

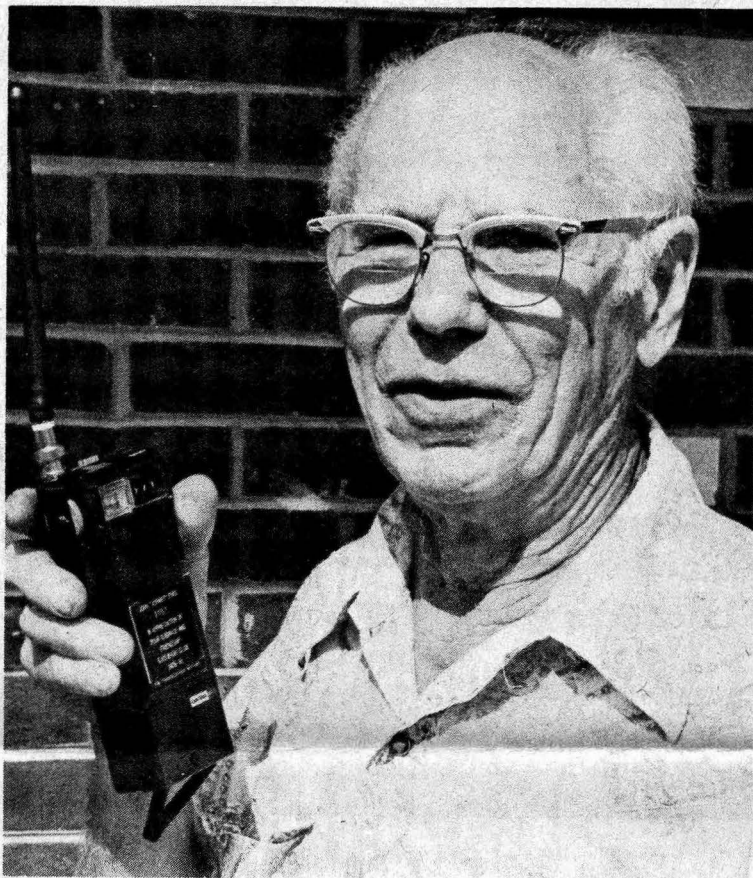
George received his amateur radio license in 1923, when he was in high school. His assigned call letters at first were 9JM, changed to W9JM when licensing procedures were changed back in the early 1930's.

His friendly greeting is always the same: "Calling all members of the Good Morning Net. This net meets each weekday morning for the purpose of good fellowship, friendly discussion, and message handling. Mobile check-ins first, please come, one at a time."

(Mobiles are those radio amateurs who have two-way radios in their cars. Since they are in motion, they may get out of range of the repeater, a device placed on the tower of radio station WDOR, which re-broadcasts the message sent out by the amateur's handheld transceivers or base stations at much greater power.)

Some of the mobile stations are not in automobiles. John, AB9F, often broadcasts from his airplane in the Klondike, W1 area near Marinette. Don, K9CPY, retired manager of Public Service in Kewaunee, calls in from his boat. John, W9MFS, calls in while riding on his bike. Clayton, W9OVO, talks from the pier while fishing at the coast guard station near Sturgeon Bay. Carol, KA9HFA, often calls in "footmobile" as she is out walking. John, K9HJL, may call in from a patch of wild strawberries while on his morning walk with his wife.

After the mobile check-ins,



GEORGE GABERT
W9JM

—John Enigl

George calls for the fixed or base stations. The first person to call in is a man from across Green bay in Menominee, MI, Mark, W8ECK. George has been talking to Mark for 62 years, since Mark lived in Marinette and his call was 9ECK. It became W9ECK when the call system was changed, then W8ECK when Mark moved across the river, into a different Federal Communications commission zone in a different state.

Most of the members of the Good Morning Net are retired, people on vacation, or people who work for school systems who have off in the summer. N9BGE, Don, who usually is the second fixed station operator to check in, used to fly the big ones in World War II; now he tells about the radio controlled model he's making, and his telling about this on the net prompted a visit recently to his Algoma home by George and his wife, as well as other club members.

Myra, WD9AST, sometimes can't call in because of her job at her family's Evergreen Nursery, where she cultures young trees in the laboratory with the loving care of a typical mother. Her conversation is often about her work.

Clayton, W9OVO, along with George, is one of Door County's first radio amateurs. When not calling mobile, he calls in from the

same room on Sturgeon Bay's west side where he was on Dec. 7, 1941 when he heard the order by the Federal Communications Commission to get off the air because of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Good Morning Net even reaches up to Washington Island where radio amateurs have operated for many years. There have been one or two native Islanders who have become amateur radio operators, but those on the Island now are summer residents, such as Warren, WB2LKP, and Clayton, K7BQ, who have been coming to the Island since 1936 and 1937 respectively.

Some club members call in from Green Bay. They sometimes even drive up for the Saturday morning breakfasts and other club gatherings, as a result of being motivated by the Good Morning Net. This week, a visitor from Island called in and the result was meeting Warren on the Island and the rest of the club at the Saturday breakfast.

Thanks to an 82 year old who has a vital interest in people, the Good Morning Net makes the Door County Amateur Radio Club one of the meeting-est clubs in the country. It's not exclusive by any means, however, because it always welcomes new members.